

OPENING OF SCHOOL EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Dean Wins Metro School Board Seat

by Pat Killian
Features Editor

A summer of intense campaigning has paid off in victory for Alan Coverstone, MBA's academic dean and now the newest member of the Metro Nashville Public School Board. Mr. Coverstone pulled in a whopping 48.5% of the vote in the hotly contested race for the District 9 seat, beating out 4 other strong candidates – a final result which can deservedly be called a landslide.

Despite stiff competition, Mr. Coverstone's campaign made the win look easy. With strong fundraising, he asserted himself early in the summer and quickly seemed to shake all opponents but Ms. Lee Limbird, a Meherry Medical College administrator whose campaign also had strong funding.

Mr. Coverstone felt throughout the race that his campaign should honor the importance of local schools by being able to operate on a professional level. "Schools are every bit as important as Congress and every other level of government," he said.

With the help of many MBA

volunteers, including current students, alumni, and parents, Mr. Coverstone's campaign organized call banks, mail-outs, the distribution of yard signs, and even cocktail parties – all in addition to the many forums and debates with the other candidates. In the closing weeks, Mr. Coverstone and volunteers focused on door-to-door canvassing. Multiple newspaper endorsements and an abundance of yard signs helped sell the candidate as the front-runner over Ms. Limbird.

"I think we reached a broad coalition of people who shared in common only a sense of the importance of a strong



Mr. Coverstone sans-mustache

educational system," Mr. Coverstone said of his campaign efforts.

In the end, he perhaps need not have worked so hard. He commanded a four-hundred-vote lead after early voting and lost only three or four precincts on Election Day, Aug. 7. The voter turnout in District 9, which potentially could have been raised by the large field of candidates, was around 10% – low, but not terrible for a local August election during presidential campaigns.

Mr. Coverstone sees the turnout as a mandate to breed more interest in Nashville's schools, saying, "10% of our community can never

be enough."

Even after an easy win, Mr. Coverstone was excited at his post-voting party at Whitfield's Restaurant the night of the election. "I decided to run because I wanted to do the work of a school board member," he said. "So today I am more excited to have that opportunity than I even am to have won the campaign."

The new workload will not in any way diminish Mr. Coverstone's role at MBA, and he understands the difficult balancing act of school, Board, and home that awaits him.

After he is sworn in on Aug. 26, Mr. Coverstone and his fellow Board members will address the topics of the state's role in Nashville's schools, the selection of a new director, and the aftermath of the recent rezoning decision. (Mr. Coverstone dislikes the narrow range of options defined by that decision, but feels the board must now honor the decisions it has made.) "I am excited to get started," he said.

The MBA community is undoubtedly excited to see him start, too.

MBA Football Wants to Reassert Dominance

by Alex Apple
Sports Editor

Rewind to August 2007: MBA is nearing its first regular season game with no one knowing what to expect. MBA was coming off a season where it missed the state playoffs for the first time in years and it had a new, young head coach after Jeff Rutledge departed.

Forward to 2008: MBA dominated going 13-0 in its last season and comes into the 2008 season with high expectations. Few will disagree that MBA was one of the elite teams in the state in 2007, but the departure of many seniors means new players will have to step up.

MBA's first game will be against Antioch, and then the team will head to Cincinnati, Ohio to play powerhouse Moeller. MBA seems to have reasserted itself as a yearly contender for the state championship behind the great leadership of Daniel McGugin, who led the team to one of its most remarkable turnarounds in MBA's long history.

Many will look at the Big Red this year and point to all the seniors that the team lost, but there are many young players who are ready to step up. Senior defensive back Reggie Ford explained that, "This year's

team has less experience because we have a lot of juniors on whom we are depending that didn't play much last year." A lot of the team's success this year will depend on the play of underclassmen like linebacker Brad Bars or receivers William Tanner and Holden Mobley. Also, Coach McGugin will be looking for several seniors to step up and be leaders for such a young team.

Offensively, MBA returns several key players, like quarterback Spencer Wise, running back Patrick Crum, center Owen Lipscomb, and tackle Wesley Johnson. Patrick Crum would have started all last year at tailback if not for a season-ending knee injury. He will anchor the running game along with sophomores DeAnte Hughes and Tyler Franks. It is critically important that the backs step up to help open up the air attack which will feature receiver Drew Turner and tight end Joe Sloan.

Defense seems to be the team's strength with a solid front seven and senior Reggie Ford anchoring the secondary. The defense was a major strength of the team last year, and they will have to face several good offenses throughout the year like Hillsboro, Ensworth, Moeller and others which will undoubtedly test them immediately.

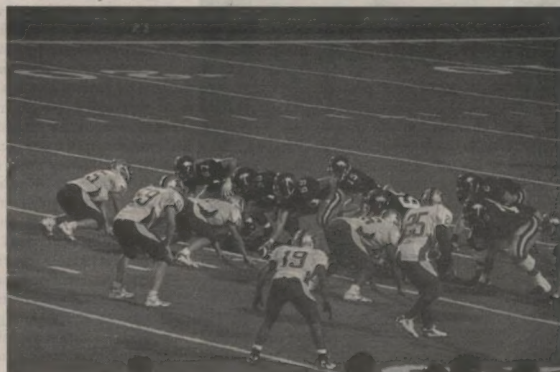
Junior Tee Griscorn said of the team, "The defense is probably our strength, with a good defensive line, and the biggest

strength of the offense is the speed."

Most importantly however, this team seems determined to return to the state championship, and they outwork many teams that they play. "There are three strengths which quickly come to mind which make our team great," said junior linebacker Brad Bars: "Our desire to keep

constantly improving on the field and in the weight room, the mental toughness of both players and coaches, and the team unity set our team apart."

The outcome of the 2008 season remains to be seen, but MBA football is for sure back to its winning ways.



Spencer Wise readies to take a snap from Owen Lipscomb in last year's game against Baylor.



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Beyond the Hill: The \$3.80 Dilemma

by Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Writer

I got my driver's license this past summer and, after unsuccessfully "accidentally" running over my brother and reconfirming Borat's realization of a lack of sex magnet in my car, I noticed the biggest problem of all for my gas-guzzling 1997 Toyota Camry – the ridiculous prices at the gas pump.

Only a month ago in July a barrel of oil reached its highest price yet at \$147, sending gas prices skyward to over \$5 a gallon in some major US cities. In Europe, it's not uncommon to see gallon of gas at over \$8, which partially explains their appreciation for tiny cars.

The high price of gas is explained primarily through simple supply and demand economics. The supply of refined oil is down because the number of refineries to convert crude oil to refined oil is so limited. Even if we explore new oil fields, without refineries to convert the oil to gasoline, it's useless. Unfortunately, due to environmental legislation in the US, it's so costly to build a refinery that none have been built since 1976. If the supply of gasoline is limited, it's more valuable and expensive.

The demand, too, has been increasing in the United States and globally. Although Americans are starting to shift from SUVs to sedans, the process is long-term and currently a very slow shift. Hybrids, electric cars, hydrogen fuel cars, and a host of new-age models are becoming more popular, but are still in their developing stages. As demand remains high and because we need gas, the prices will remain high at the pump as well.

Any solution to solve the problem of high gas prices has to be extremely complex and may result in causing other problems, such as funding enemies abroad, turning allies into enemies, and further environmental damage. Domestically, the two presidential candidates have equally ignorant and damning plans. Senator Obama wants to put a windfall tax on "big oil" companies' profits – this would be extremely detrimental because oil companies use that profit to fund exploration, efficiency, and expansion of existing refineries. That would result in even higher gas prices. His carbon tax initiatives, although perhaps environmentally and diplomatically successful, would strain oil companies and again force them to increase taxes. Senator McCain wants a "gas tax holiday", but this would only give us a week or so of low prices – clearly not a long-term solution.

One reason why they propose these ludicrous plans is to get American votes, because for some reason or another Americans hate oil companies. It's important to remember that they're just like any other company trying to turn a profit, but you'll never see rioters protesting the high price of Apple's new iPhone. This hateful sentiment against oil companies incites these ridiculous plans by our presidential candidates.

Domestically, a solution is three-pronged. First, allow for more exploration. Senator McCain intelligently wants to remove federal bans on off-shore drilling and building nuclear plants. The main concern is environmental damage and the safety of Americans, but in both drilling and nuclear power, safety and waste-removal measures have improved tremendously since the 1970s. Better alternative forms of power means that the demand for oil to be used for power purposes decreases. Even in areas like ANWR in Alaska, estimated to have billions of barrels of oil and significant amounts of natural gas, drilling could be an effective solution. More exploration allows for more exploration and a greater supply of oil, thus reducing the price. More importantly, drilling domestically prevents organizations like OPEC (Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries) from creating a stranglehold on American oil markets.

Second, subsidize new oil refineries. If oil refineries are expensive for oil companies, the US federal government should subsidize, or partially pay for, new and more efficient refineries. This increases the amount of gasoline and reduces the price of gas at the pump.

Finally, create incentives for using more efficient cars. If the federal government implements taxes on SUVs and pick-up trucks and gave benefits to hybrid car drivers, then more and more Americans will be tempted to buy hybrids instead of costly SUVs. The demand and price for gas, therefore, decreases over time. This solution would be much more long-term, but certainly effective after a decade or less of execution.

The United States also needs to address global problems as well to fully counter the issues surrounding high gas prices. As the U.S. imports over 60% of its oil, we are extremely vulnerable to the whims of a potentially hostile nation. Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Iraq, who have been hostile to the United States, are all in our top 10 exporting countries of oil. State-run oil companies fund socialist leaders like Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and private sources of oil wealth likely funded much of the Iraqi insurgency that continues violently against United States troops. Certainly the continuing war in Iraq should be an incentive for more domestic sources of drilling.

Another increasingly important issue concerns a number of countries subsidizing low gas prices. Essentially, in countries like China, India, and Chile, the government will pay for about half of the cost of gas, thus reducing the price of gas to its citizens. These countries continue to import more oil, while the rest of the world pays the price. The International Monetary Fund wants to ban this practice, and certainly the United States should back it and try to enforce the IMF's legislation.

Something productive to solve high gas prices must be done. Our economy, national security, and livelihood is at stake.



Are consumers being affected by high gas prices?

The Sand Reckoner: Very Readable

by Jimmy Balser
Entertainment Co-Editor

I'd like to think that our summer reading books are intended to really speak to students and inspire dialogue in the classroom, and often they do so. Of course, every once in a while a book comes along that is so devastatingly hated that students will still whine about it years later (*Light in the Forest*). This year's all-school read, *The Sand Reckoner*, though, certainly is not the latter.

Gillian Bradshaw's fictional account of the great mathematician and inventor Archimedes' support of the tyrant of Syracuse during the First Punic War provides the narrative of the book. Syracuse, on the east coast of Sicily, must find a way to remain neutral and safe during the strife between Rome and Carthage. To accomplish neutrality, Syracuse must show each side that Syracuse has the tools to do them great damage and that it would be best for both Rome and Carthage to take their fight elsewhere. The mid-third century B.C. is the time of the action.

To start, *The Sand Reckoner* is considerably different from last year's all-school read, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which was actually larger than most of our middle schoolers. Students generally seemed optimistic about *Reckoner* after receiving the book, simply because of its non-threatening size. This may have been a determining factor for selecting the novel. Students simply aren't going to read something that looks like it will rip a significant portion of their summer away from them. Just ask the English teachers how many of their students they believe read *Cristo*.

So, if you count the success of the all-school read by the number of students that actually pick up the book, then this year's choice wasn't too shabby. There is, however, another reason why *The Sand Reckoner* may have been the perfect choice. Finding subject matter for a school full of teenage boys to read can't be easy, and the administration deserves a pat on the back for finding a book that students can't complain about. It's a quick read, but it covers all the topics we love: like feats of heroism, large rocks crushing people, showing off for the ladies.... and flutes.

I wasn't expecting to be drawn in by *The Sand Reckoner*, but I couldn't help enjoying it. Ms. Bradshaw blends history with fiction in an entertaining, easy-to-read way. This style is a fairly refreshing change from some of the more stuffy books we will have to read during our MBA careers. This difference is most appreciated during the book's more action packed sequences. Unfortunately, many of the serious, and especially the romantic scenes, may cause the reader to wince. Some may say that's a small gripe since Ms. Bradshaw doesn't linger on the heavy stuff for too long, but it is novel's most glaring weakness.

Ms. Bradshaw has no kind words for Rome, not the people or the imperialism, and some of us who cherish Rome and the Latin language find her continual denigration of Rome distracting and unsettling.

We weren't overly taxed intellectually by *Reckoner*, and overall the novel is a lot of fun. I consider the book a victory for the MBA committee which chooses the all-school read.



Archimedes pondering the ways of the moon

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The Governor's School Pushes Passionate Artists

by Tommy Harless
Staff Writer

This whole chaotic exuberance that is called Governor's School for the Arts started sometime last year, when my dear friends who were performing *Shakespeare in the Park (Coriolanus)*, August 14-Sept 7, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights this year) with me started to rave about Governor's School and how I "simply had to audition". The process was almost entirely paper work, which had to be filed by November, followed by auditions in January. I was lucky enough to be accepted for both singing and theater, and I chose to go for voice. But it wasn't until June of this year that I really knew what I was getting into.

I arrived at MTSU (the college campus locale for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts) not quite having a clue on earth what was going on. I knew I would be there for five weeks and that I would be fed every day. That was it! Well, it turns out, though, that there was a lot more than that. In the following paragraphs is a quick description of the School for those of you still confused about what Governor's School involves.

"The State of Tennessee provides twelve summer programs for gifted and talented high school students. These programs provide challenging and intensive learning experiences in these disciplines: Arts, Humanities, International Studies, Engineering, Science, Prospective Teachers, Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage, Information Technology Leadership, and Agricultural Science. Three new programs beginning in 2008 are Computational Physics, Emerging Technologies, and Scientific Models and Data Analysis" (<http://www.tennessee.gov/education/govschools/>). In plain

English, rising juniors and seniors go to different college campuses across the state for five weeks to indulge their muse and study the discipline. Here's the catch- IT'S FREE!

I was going to the Governor's School for the creative arts, which is composed of a dance section, a visual arts section, a theater section, and a music section. Every student there is incredibly talented and generally everyone is laid back and groovy.

But back to my story. As a singer, I spent 2-3 hours each morning working with a mixed chorus of 32 singers. We also had a one-hour lesson each morning designated for different musical knowledge, varying from playing steel drums to improvisational classes to audition practices. After an enjoyable lunch (yum), we headed back to work on solo singing in a master class for an hour each day, critiquing and practicing our auditions/performance as singers. Finally, we spent two and a half hours preparing for our end of Governor's School opera performance.

After a quick supper we had free time until nightly performances starting at 7:30. At the end of the day, we went back to our dorms to catch a quick night's sleep (or stay up plotting revenge on the 2nd floor for stealing our TV) before doing it all over again. Saturdays and Sundays were almost entirely our own free time, with performances each Saturday night.

Throughout the five weeks I made plenty of friends who shared the same passion for music that I had. For a camp that has to take care of 230 teenagers, the establishment is surprisingly lax (just don't push it). Of all the wonderful moments perhaps the highlights of the entire experience were the performances of the *Finale*.

We were able to see what our friends in theater, dance, and art had been working on for the entire time, and every performance was incredible, from the theater performance of *Twelfth Night* to the dance students' ballet.

As a voice student, I was able to perform both in our opera finale and in the music finale with the entire music ensemble. The complete series of productions lasted two days, with each and every one displaying the enormous talent of Tennessee's young people.

The five weeks were not entirely dominated by working or hanging around the campus, though. We had three large productions that the entire school watched, starting with a performance by the black Mozart ensemble the first night, followed by the comedy act *The Complete History of America Abridged* (performed by the Shakespeare Abridged company), and finishing with a performance by the Nashville In Motion dance team. We got to go watch the symphony at the Schermerhorn, take a trip to a nearby mall, wander across town on Parent's Day, and enjoy the numerous concerts put on by the very talented staff.

The sponsors had a college day for those interested in pursuing their

art as a profession and even brought in a Metropolitan Opera singer with whom the chorale could discuss a career in music. All in all, the entire five weeks was jam-packed with activities to enjoy, complemented with free time to relax.

I know many of you probably would not enjoy spending five weeks of your summer surrounded by music geeks or dance maniacs. But the Governor's School programs can be enjoyed by anyone with a passion, even if you didn't come out of the womb with a paint brush in one hand and ballet slippers in the other. The friends and experiences you will make there last a lifetime and can be very valuable to you in the future. Look into the different fields of interest you have, whether it be growing corn or calculating in trigonometry, and send in an application as soon as possible. I know you won't regret it.

(Editor's Note: Tommy's mentor, coach, and teacher at the Governor's School was fine arts professor Dr. Raphael Bundage, who spoke these words concerning Tommy and Tommy's schoolmates: "The entire group this year was one of the best Governor's School has ever had. They were a tight-knit bunch who worked very well together. Tommy was one of the best there and went over and beyond what was asked of him. I believe that Tommy has great potential as a singer and should cultivate that interest.")

Aeolian Harp to be Installed this Month

News Detail

The front of the MBA campus will soon be home to the beautiful sounds of an Aeolian harp. The 30-foot instrument is played by the wind and will be installed on the hill in front of the Ingram Science building later this month. The Aeolian harp is named for Aeolus, the ancient

Greek god of the wind. MBA's harp was designed by Jeffery Funk of Montana and was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Barry Yarbrough in memory of their son, Trevor ('04), who passed away in 2005. A dedication ceremony will be held once the harp has been installed.



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Is Barack Obama's Youth A Factor?

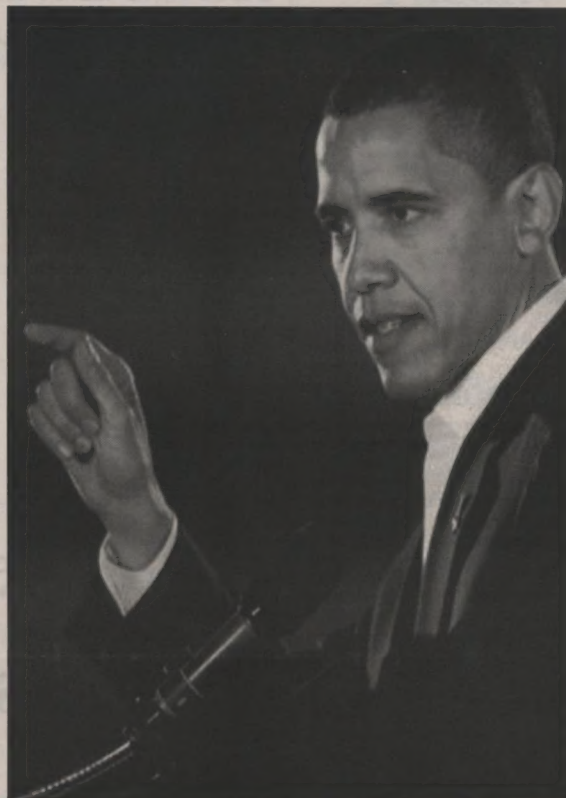
by Quinton Burks
Staff Writer

Barack Obama may be the youngest 47-year-old ever to live. "In this election, it's our turn. It's your generation's turn. Let's bring a new generation of leadership to America," he encouraged students at the University of South Carolina last summer. A man who came of age in the 1970's and could join AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) in three years has seamlessly integrated himself with today's youth.

But what kind of following has Obama attracted at Montgomery Bell Academy, an institution built on tradition and with a large percentage of conservative parents? If many youth at even our school support Obama, then the media hype about his young constituency should certainly be given credibility.

Junior Campbell Haynes feels that Obama's message of change is what the country needs, especially with the Iraq War dragging on. "He understands it was a mistake; that Afghanistan is our battle." Obama advocates a gradual troop withdrawal while McCain wants to maintain a troop presence in Iraq for as long as necessary, citing American bases in Korea, Germany, and Japan that date back to the 40's and 50's.

While Iraq is a standout issue in the coming election, the economy and oil were foremost in the minds of 60 percent of students responding to an informal poll. Junior Mitchell Lukens says that, "Obama has put forward a great platform to change the US to renewable fuels and energy," but admits that this plan is long-term and idealistic rather than practical. As an avowed centrist, Mitchell offers balanced perspective on the issues and has only recently begun to warm up to Obama.



Barack Obama delivering a speech.

Senior Hicks Woolwine, on the other hand, firmly believes that Barack Obama is the last thing our struggling economy needs. "He wants to raise taxes, [capital] gains rates, and he won't drill." Rush Limbaugh would be proud. As evidenced by both my own research and by the applause he received during a political assembly last year, Obama has gained a sizeable foothold among MBA students, although by no means a decisive one.

With compelling arguments for each candidate, choosing a side may seem difficult, but I cast my ballot for McCain. Obama appeals to the passionate and emotional side of human nature in hope of a vote based on feeling, not thought. His salient qualities of youth and tele-prompted eloquence entertain. His promises of change and government gas rebates assuage our material worries. Barack Obama is a modern-day politician of bread and circuses.

John McCain, however, respects Americans as rational citizens. No obscure promises of hope and change come from the Republican camp, just honesty and direct address of the issues. When considering the economy, Senator McCain has consistently vouched for off-shore drilling as a remedy to increased gas prices. Senator Obama recently threw out his own tire pressure scheme and adopted the policy of his more seasoned opponent. Obama clearly panders to the public sentiment of the moment, hoping that voters won't be thoughtful enough to remember his little switch on a crucial issue. For our sake, I hope the young American voter proves him presumptuous.



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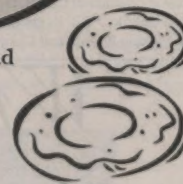
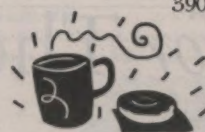
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Cdr. Carr Comments on the Science Department's Plans

by Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Commander Pete Carr, the science department chair, conversed with *The Bell Ringer* about the upcoming year for science at MBA. Cdr. Carr, a bowling and Science Olympiad coach, also comments on the Large Hadron Collider, a particle accelerator which straddles the French-Swiss border.

The LHC, which has a circumference of 17 miles, collides protons traveling at 99.99% the speed of light using around 1600 magnets. The accelerator, which straddles the French-Swiss border, is currently being cooled to temperatures just above absolute zero and should be fully operational this fall. Scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, called CERN (the French acronym), will then be able to observe a simulated version of the beginning of the universe. This is the same particle accelerator featured fictionally in Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons*.

Bell Ringer: Are there any new additions to the science department faculty this year?

CDR CARR: Yes, Mr Chris Bullington will be teaching earth science. He has a masters degree in Botany, and he is coming to us after a number of years at the "Nature Conservancy." He likes to conserve, but he is not a wacko tree-hugger like algore.

BR: Who will be teaching the [newly vacated] Physics and Astronomy classes?

CDR CARR: Dr. Dickens will take over Physics B, Physics honors, and astronomy.

BR: How soon will the observatory be ready for Astronomy class use?

CDR CARR: Good question. The radio telescope is being mounted on the Science building roof this week (8/3 - 8/9) and will be used by the astronomy club and the astronomy class during this school year.

BR: Are you excited about the new particle accelerator at CERN, the Large Hadron Collider? Will its probable results affect the way Physics and Chemistry are

taught?

CDR CARR: Excited is hardly the word. We'll wait and see how much money they spend smashing atomic size particles together. After I set up my side business "P.T. Barnum Industries", selling carbon off-sets to those "chicken littles" among us who do not have the benefit of an MBA science education, I may investigate building a science department mini-particle collider in the basement of the new parking garage.

BR: Do you expect the Science Olympiad to have a strong year, despite the loss of many seniors?

CDR CARR: Of course! We have a nucleus of a great team with a strong group of juniors and some pretty solid senior leadership, with Harrison Stringfellow, Ed Powell, Robert McNeilly, and my newest recruit, Brian Swenson. Also, our coaches are the best in the nation, so I predict another state championship for the manly scientists of MBA!

BR: Will the bowling squad win a state championship and/or produce another "Mr. Bowling"?

CDR CARR: Mr. Bowling (Rand Woodson) will be hard to replace, but I have some great rising seniors to lead us to the promised land in Smyrna. Will Andrews, Logan Lechleiter, Caldwell Ritter, Brian Swenson (now a dual threat with his addition to the Science Olympiad team) and Charlie Watkins. Juniors John Andrews, Denney Sandwith, Oliver Oldacre, Ben Sutter, and Conner Hastings are all potential first team all-state selections. When you are a great coach in the MBA tradition, like myself, you build a dynasty that focuses on success year after year! Rumor has it that several wealthy benefactors are planning an on-campus practice facility for the bowling team that will be named in my honor. I think the MBA "Carr-o-drome" has a nice ring to it!

(Editor's Note: Cdr. Carr has not yet coerced Brian Swenson onto the Science Olympiad team.)

Freshmen Find Freedom in the Summer

by Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

The freshman summer has been a busy one for many. Summer reading and sports practice can certainly be inconvenient and intrusive, but we all seem to find time to work on hobbies, go on fantastic trips, or just bask in the glory of doing absolutely nothing. I interviewed some fellow ninth-graders to see what they have been up to this summer.

Matt Anderson certainly had an exciting summer. He had the opportunity to travel all over the US, from the Southwest to a five-star resort in Virginia. He first went out west to the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam, then to Vegas, quite a change from scenic beauty to gambling casino! Apparently, the people

there are a bit unscrupulous, too; "There'll be entertainers on the street handing out their 'business cards,' if you know what I mean," says Matt. He also went to the High Adventure camp, spelunking in a non-commercial cave. His advice: don't eat beans! There is no air movement.

Chris Lee visited South Korea for the month of June. He says they have really good food and video games! According to him, the rest of his summer was spent entirely in eating, playing video games, and studying for the PSAT.

Hunter Woolwine started a band over the summer. He, **Maclin Davis**, **Blair Griffith**, and **Aaron Ardisson** now play in their band, *Prometheus Unleashed*. He says they just got a bass player.

I hope that your summer was as fun as theirs and that the new school year will be fun and exciting for everyone.

Go see the musical!

Zombie Prom opens
Thursday, September 4
at 7:00 p.m.

Write for The Bell Ringer!

The Staff still needs a few good writers.
If interested, please contact Mr. Gaither or Brian Swenson!

MBA Students Descend Down Under

By Wade Longmire and Connor Shope
Staff Travel Writers

This June, as part of the MBA exchange program, we traveled to Parramatta, Australia to stay at the King's School. Being an all-boys military boarding school, life is a little different from MBA.

Every day the students rise around 7:00 AM to go to breakfast from 7:00-8:00. School starts at 8:50 except on assembly days which are every second Wednesday. Assemblies begin at 8:30.

We found the school day to be not at all taxing. Each day has six periods, 50 minutes each, and the order of classes changes every day...to keep the students alert, we suppose. Inserted between 2nd and 3rd periods is a one-hour break, and lunch is an hour and a half, between 4th and 5th periods.

After school on Tuesdays and Thursdays is "training" (practice) for all sports. We participated in rugby, but cross country and soccer were also in season, which at the time was their winter.

The sports program at King's School is very different from our own arrangement. Basically, there are no subs, and there are enough teams for everyone to be on a team. So, the "1's" are the varsity equivalent, while the "10's" are so bad they are called the "social" team. We played on the 8's and 9's and dominated

because of our size. Literally, we were as big, if not bigger, than their firsts and were constantly referred to as "big units."

The boarding houses were one of the coolest parts of the trip. Every night we basically just hung out with the guys in our houses. They only get an hour of homework a night and there's a study time put aside for it, during which we slept or played on the computers. Otherwise, though we often ordered pizzas, watched movies and rugby, or played Halo online with the whole house. We were in different houses, but at night everyone would be online in some game. The NBA finals took place while we were down there, and it was funny to see the Australians going around school yelling "Kobe!", after throwing a pencil across the room.

On the weekends we split up to go touring with our hosts visiting such places as the Sydney Zoo, the Center Point Tower (observatory), downtown Sydney, the Olympic Stadium for a rugby game, and the Blue Mountains, a famous hiking area.

The entire trip was incredible, and we want to thank Mrs. Warner, Mr. Gioia, and everyone who helped make this exchange trip possible! Juniors, do not let this great opportunity go by!



Original building of the King's School, built in 1832

MBA Welcomes New Faculty Members

News Detail

As the school year approaches, MBA would like to introduce the new additions to the faculty and staff. All 18 arrived on campus Friday to take part in a three-day orientation, covering topics that include history of the school, its academic mission and vision, student life, and technology. The group began the day on Friday in the kitchen, preparing their lunch as a team under the guidance of MBA English teacher and chef Malcolm Morrison.

The new faculty and staff include:

Chris Bullington

Mr. Bullington will be teaching Introduction to Physical Science, coaching Science Olympiad and working with the intramural programs.

David Deutsch

Mr. Deutsch will be teaching Geometry and Algebra II, working with ACE, and assisting with the hockey, swimming, baseball and track programs.

Cole Eppstein

Mr. Eppstein will be teaching Geometry and Algebra I-Honors and coaching the football and baseball programs.

Sam Garner ('03)

Mr. Garner will be working with our Alumni & Development Office and helping with the football and lacrosse.

Kevin Hamrick

Mr. Hamrick will be working with our debate program, teaching, and helping develop school outreach programs.

Charlie Howell

Mr. Howell will be working in Administration and Development offices and with the AP-Government class. He will be assisting with varsity golf, basketball, and microbe baseball, and working with the Big Red Club and the Government Club.

Matthew Jacques ('04)

Mr. Jacques will be working with our Alumni & Development Office, coaching football, basketball, and baseball and working with The Big Red Club.

Jennifer Kalis

Ms. Kalis will be teaching Algebra II-Honors, College Algebra Trig-Honors and

working with Service, the Math Club, and intramurals.

Ginny Maddux

Ms. Maddux will serve as Director of College Counseling.

Mike Martin ('98)

Mr. Martin has been the color commentator for the Big Red football radio broadcasts for the past seven years. Mike will be working with our Alumni & Development Office and assisting with varsity baseball and 7th-grade basketball.

Will McEachern

Mr. McEachern will be working with our College Counseling Office and teaching Government. He will also be coaching basketball and baseball and working with the Stock Market Game.

Will Norton ('99)

Mr. Norton will be teaching American History, coaching football and wrestling, working in Administration and with Student Council and Service.

Daniel Paolicchi

Mr. Paolicchi will be teaching Spanish I, II, and III, and working with Hispanic Achievers, soccer and track.

Robbie Quinn

Mr. Quinn will be working with the debate program, teaching English I, and working with Service.

Elijah Reynolds ('99)

Mr. Reynolds will be working in the Alumni & Development Office and coaching cross country and track.

Jonas Rodriguez ('00)

Mr. Rodriguez will be teaching Government-Economics, coaching football and basketball, and working with The Big Red Club.

Chris Sanders

Mr. Sanders will be coaching football and track and working with the Junior School counseling program.

Candy Vaughan

Ms. Vaughan will be teaching English in the Junior School, helping with Junior School publications, the Spelling Bee, and intramurals.



New MBA faculty members prepare their lunch at their orientation

MBA Varsity Golf Team Shoots for Success

by Alex Apple
Sports Editor

The 2008 MBA golf team started in early August on their quest for a state championship berth. On August 1st and 2nd at the Golf Club of Tennessee the team was a little rusty against Ensworth, as the final score showed.

During this loss several young players showed fabulous potential, and the veterans will only get better as the year goes on. Another youngster, George Preston won the club championship at Hackistone, showing that the future is bright for the Big Red golfers.

MBA returns some great players, though losing several key seniors last year, including John Birch who turned in the team's best performance at the state championship last year. The juniors on the team are very strong golfers, led by Tyler Leroy and followed by Overton Thompson, Tyler Paslick and Alex Snow,

but the team also has several good young players, including freshman Austin Dobler who led the Microbe team last year.

Alex Snow said of the team, "We have a good mix of youngsters complemented by a solid junior class." The team only has two seniors, Robert McNeilly and Nicholas Concepcion, so some juniors will also have to step up and show they can lead, also.

There is stiff competition in the region this year, including a very strong Baylor team, but the squad was able to defend its Stan McNabb Invitational title earlier this month as well.

There is no doubt the team will continue to improve and that the future is very bright for the Big Red.

Putt Red Putt.

Cross-Country Team Has Great Expectations

by Will Henry
Staff Writer

It's that time of year. As the relaxing summer begins its transition into the regimented fall, people begin to return their minds to the sports world. Ever-present are thoughts of tailgates, Friday-night lights, and everyone's favorite occasion: **two-a-days**.

Known by most as applicable to football, the term *two-a-days* can be applied to other sports, including cross-country. As the twenty-eight runners who journeyed up to the campus of Sewanee for a few days of running soon found out, it is, in fact, possible to go for a run both in the morning and at night...in the same day.

The camp experience provided the incoming freshman and other new runners the opportunity to learn what cross-country is all about and, in general, gave all runners a chance to focus themselves on the season.

Highlights of the retreat included Coach Pruitt's detailed, scientific explanations of different types of training which followed the ingenious mnemonic device, "Extra Terrestrials Ignore Reality", and senior Nick Williams shouting "I just won four bucks in the lottery...!"

In the weeks of August after returning from camp at Sewanee and before school started, a dedicated group of runners met every afternoon at Vaughn's Gap to run trails and complete track workouts. The team is really starting to come together, and the focus is now turned to November 1st, the day of the State Meet.

The returning varsity runners are seniors Baker Mulherin and Matt Ractliffe, junior David Dalton, and sophomores Michael Peters and Hayes McCord. Also, Ryan Hill, who, while injured his freshman

cross country season, ran an excellent track season in the spring, will also be running at the front. Commenting on last season's performance and the outlook of this season with such great runners returning, Coach Russ said, "We missed second at state by only three points, and even though that was our best state finish in several years, we were disappointed and certainly start this year hungry."

With only four seniors, and with a few key juniors out with injuries, the underclassman will have to step up. But, as David Dalton so eloquently pointed out, "I think we have a good freshman group," a group who will most likely contribute to the team in a big way.

Junior Quinton Burks, who missed the summer workouts with a hip injury, feels that the younger guys will contribute. Referring to the sophomore prodigy, he commented, "Michael Scott - Peters is the next great hope. He inspires me each day in a new way."

Baylor, the defending state champion and the obvious team to beat, will almost certainly have the top individual runner in the state this year. Big meets other than state include the TN Classic in September (the largest high school sporting event in the state of Tennessee each year, based on number of participants) and the Great America Cross Country Festival in Hoover, AL, in October. The team has potential to have a great season as long as injuries don't play a part, and all the runners want as many people as possible to come support them at their big meets.

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Matt Ractliffe sprints for the finish line.

The Dark Knight Provides an Empty Night

by Karl Mecklenborg
Staff Writer

Missing from Batman's utility belt—substance. I left the theater with a somewhat sick sense of eating too much popcorn and a slight sense of... dare I say it... boredom.

Sure, Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* is probably the best superhero movie ever made, but that's like saying *High School Musical 3* is the best Disney movie ever made. *The Dark Knight* impressively beat out such summer powerhouses as *Mamma Mia!* to break all kinds of records.

Christopher Nolan's sequel to *Batman Begins* is a perfect example of a movie that takes itself too seriously. Throughout the movie Nolan uses a guy dressed up in a bat costume to address big themes: post-9/11 concepts of justice, abuse of power, and the manipulation of history. Nolan tries to create comic book characters whose tragic qualities have Shakespearean depth, and the result is a big mess.

There is no tragic quality to this movie in the way Nolan intended. Batman is simply an adolescent's action figure with problems most of us can only dream of having. How many of us face the problem of having a split personality, unlimited wealth, or the responsibility of being solely able to fight crime? Even without Batman's ear-shattering voice, nobody cares about what he says or feels. I also doubt anyone shed a tear when Batman's love interest, Rachel, suddenly died. Nolan's twist packed zero punch because Rachel's character was simply a plot-advancing pawn, poorly drawn with no depth.

Instead, Heath Ledger as the Joker becomes, in a twisted way, the focus and moral center of the film, and this makes *The Dark Knight* an unintentionally sick movie. I bet most

of you heard laughs and applause after the pencil and hospital scenes. The Joker went from being a supervillain with a cheesy grin in the comics to some garden-variety psychopath in this movie. The Joker reminded me too much of the maniac Anton from *No Country for Old Men*, but with smeared clown makeup. Except for the Joker playing card being tossed around, you could have called that character any name you want and it would have had no effect on the film. It's a joke to call this a superhero movie.

The movie is tedious to follow, and plot twists end up being unsatisfying. This movie is supposed to be realistic and deep, but it lacked any focus or point. When other people talk about it, I keep hearing the word "brilliant" tossed carelessly around like it's a Nerf football. There was no real climax, since there were at least five subplots and two villains to deal with.

To me, this lame movie was interrupted occasionally by some irrelevant, but brilliant scenes. For example, blowing up the hospital didn't add much to the story, but it just may have been the coolest thing ever filmed. However, many of the scenes with the mob were mind-numbing, especially when Morgan "March of the Penguins" Freeman goes all the way to Hong Kong just to leave a cell phone in a building. Overall, the scenes without the Joker were average at best, with robotic performances galore from Batman and Two-Face.

I applaud Christopher Nolan's attempt at making this superhero movie deep and thought-provoking, but most of his attempt turned out cheesy and confusing. The airplane escape, the finger print from a bullet, and the cell phone sonar all take away from the realism of the movie. Apparently Batman can't talk, but

Karl's Wrong...

by Will Holt
Entertainment Co-Editor

It's a Christopher Nolan film; Christian Bale and Heath Ledger are in it; Morgan Freeman pretends to have some valuable purpose in the movie. Three reasons why *The Dark Knight* is the best action movie of the summer.

From the moment this film was advertised, I was interested. Heath Ledger's performance has been the talk of year, and his death has drawn even more curiosity. Plain and simple, Ledger is phenomenal. Hilarious and terrifying at the same time, he renews the face of the Joker. I do not think that Christian Bale should be overlooked in this film, however. He gives the best performance he can give, yet his Batman voice disappointed me. It's like a mixture of Leonidas (*The 300*) and an 80-year-old woman with emphysema.

One must also be impressed by the film's ability to take a pop-culture icon and make a modern tragic hero out of him. Nolan creates a very believable plot line, in which every character seems to matter and to have some effect on Batman/Bruce Wayne. The film haunts the viewer, especially in scenes where the

a guy with half a lip can spit out cheesy one-liners just fine, such as "The world is cruel, and the only morality in a cruel world is chance."

Harvey Dent transformed way too fast into Two-Face, and he turns into a flat character existing only to prove the Joker's power of corruption. The child endangerment scene with Two-Face was a low blow for cheap suspense, and the cheesy coin flipping was irritating after the seventh time.

The ending of the movie results in two disappointing conclusions. The scene with two boats full of people with detonators lacked any point. Defying reality, they act calm and throw out their detonators in perfect order. In another unrealistic event, Two-Face dies after falling the same height as Batman. I don't think I've ever seen such an unsatisfying ending to a movie.

Last but not least, Nolan, of course, felt it necessary to play Michael Moore and relate a comic book movie

Joker harasses his victims. As the Joker screams, "LOOK AT ME!!!" to a man disguised as Batman in a slaughterhouse, the audience shrinks totally in terror.

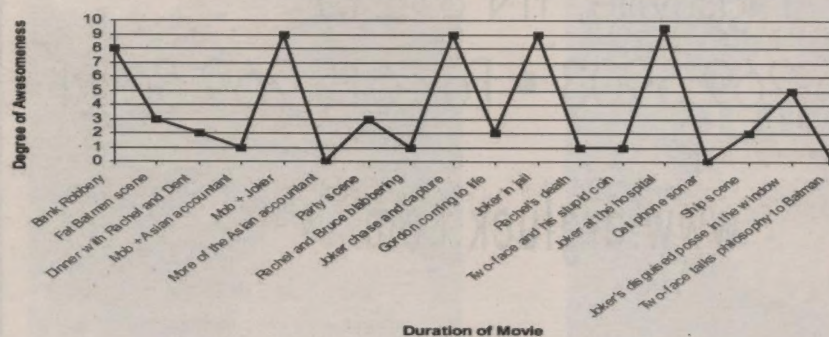
The action surpasses that of *Batman Begins*. With Christian Bale jumping on top of vans, flipping 18-wheelers, riding the awesome *batpod*, and being hooked onto a plane with a giant balloon over the Hong Kong skyline. As far as Batman films go, it is easily the best. Val Kilmer and George Clooney just don't cut it as the troubled superhero.

Additional bonuses in the movie include Michael Caine's speaking about "rubies the size of melons," the Scarecrow making another appearance, and the line "NO MORE DEAD COPS!"

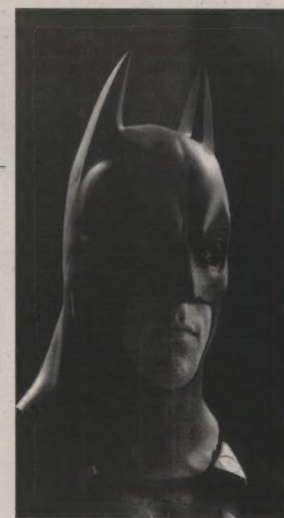
Karl doesn't even like superhero movies. Karl's judging a Batman movie is like someone eating ice cream when he knows he hates ice cream. But no normal person hates ice cream.

to politics. Like President Bush, Batman now has his own warrantless wiretapping program in the form of, yes, cell phone sonar, which brings up some questions about symbolism in the film: Is the Dark Knight like George Bush because he uses torture and telephone spy tactics to save everyone? Does the last scene suggest that Bush and Batman are taking the fall for all the bad things that have happened and that in the future their people will praise them? I don't care. I have nothing against pseudo philosophical babble in limited amounts, but does the entire movie have to be Nolan's huge IMAX-quality sermon?

Dark Knight Line Graph



Karl's apices and nadirs of emotion during the film.



Christian Bale as Batman in *The Dark Knight*

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Seniors Set Out for the Summer

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

The Senior Class had a very diverse set of individual experiences and adventures over the course of the summer. From camps and foreign lands to mythical creatures and excess facial hair (or even a combination of both), the seniors encountered a wide array of activities to enjoy.

Alex Martin spent a big portion of his summer at Northwestern University where he studied film and actively pieced together several short films of his own during his time there. This experience has motivated Alex to pursue a career in film and to achieve this career through four years of college at Northwestern.

In a slightly less believable feat, Owen Lipscomb sailed around the entire world in a raft without food and water. He must have somehow stopped for a time in order to make football workouts and such, but I'm all for breaking down the laws of time and space.

Leland Howe had a big summer that required him to travel to Detroit, Michigan for the Junior Track and Field Nationals. He competed in the pole vault and the javelin, but Leland didn't do as well as he'd expected after suffering a minor knee injury. In other meets, Leland succeeded and, then, enjoyed some time off on the beach in Georgia. Bradford Norton spent a lot of his time in his room and didn't go out much because, he claimed, it was cooler both logistically and metaphorically. Chunbum Park went on some college tours up north and came to his personal conclusion that Boston is superior to all cities, and that's where he'd like to continue his studies. Taylor Land had a pretty awesome summer chasing down William "Big Play" "Seabreeze" Hayes and being run over by Chris Johnson, fastest man alive. Taylor also got a chance to see *Pineapple Express* with Cortland Finnegan.

The ever saucy Karl



Bradford Norton with his Little Brother at the summer picnic

Mecklenborg said he enjoyed his summer and attained a "black belt in keepin' it real." No one knows what that really means, but it doesn't matter, because no one's gotten what Karl's said throughout high school anyway. Houston Oldham had an action-packed soccer fest this summer. From camps to games to tournaments, Houston kept busy on the field. He also mentioned his soccer team made it to quarterfinals in their region, which is a great achievement on their behalf. I'd also like to thank Houston for giving debate camp a shout out.

Crawford Standard enjoyed his exchange trip to the Melbourne Grammar School with his new best friend Michael Moore. Ian Preston began his summer with an exchange trip to New Zealand with Charlie Watkins and Clark Benton. It's safe to say that everyone that went on any sort of exchange this year had a great time regardless of where they went. Those that went would really like to thank Mrs. Warner for making those trips all possible.

Brian Swenson had an MLB filled summer as he saw six games and watched his Seattle Mariners win one game against the Atlanta Braves. With that win, the Mariners notched in a season-high .350 winning percentage coming up only 29 games short of their division lead. This has been one of the better years for the Mariners.

In an unrelated story, Ed Powell gained the new nickname "Ed Beard" after growing a massive orange beard for the entirety of the summer. A high-five to Ed and all those weeks of growing!

All in all the senior class had a pretty productive summer filled with an excess of summer reading. Everyone is looking forward to his final year on the Hill and is expecting a tough first semester, filled with tougher classes and college applications. Somehow the senior class will have to tough it out together, as this semester will be a testament to how hard we've all worked to get to the apex of our high school careers.

Sophomores Stay Busy in the Summer

by
Andrew Powell
Staff Writer

"Summer's been good - can't believe it's already over," a reflective Hampton Farr commented, when asked about his months of freedom. Right there with you, Hampton.

Over the past few months, MBA's Class of 2011 has been busy relaxing. From Jack Hallemann hangliding in Chattanooga to Bradley Worthington fishing in Canada, the sophomores have had their share of summer fun.

Here are some of the ways sophomores spent their well deserved time off: Lane Bullock "went to Destin for a couple weeks and then to the Young Life camp"; Stephen Bedard, known as "Steve-o unbelievable-o" to us all, said for his summer he "went on a mission trip, went to this random island, and played a lot of soccer"; Hunter Raeliffe went to Cookeville for baseball; William Flautt spent some time in California; and Chase Lovelace said of his summer, "Well. . .

. I swam. Just got back from Jr. Nationals in Minneapolis, MN." Congrats, Chase, who not only made it to Jr. Nationals, but also swam all personal bests there! Will Farrar says he "just got back from Narnia." And Cullen Moran spent about a month in Minnesota on Lake Vermillion, where he picked up a funny Minnesotan

accent and got up on one ski.

Aside from all the fun and relaxation, summer holds great opportunity for students to do a little work. Tom Markham and Carter Callaway packaged many MBA students' school books while working at Davis Kidd. Ian Sharbel, Walton Macey, William Farrar, and Jack Hallemann made a little gas money working at Whitworth. Ben Crook, though, went one step further. He volunteered his time to the Green Hills Regal Cinema and to keeping the staff on top of their game. Ben accomplished this noble service to the community by getting kicked out of *Pineapple Express*...not once, but twice.

Instead of working, one can dedicate his time to improving himself through learning a new skill. Lee Srebnick took this principle to heart. He spent countless days working on becoming a "regular" at the Charlotte Rd. Waffle House, which, he would like to add, is the closest place to heaven on this earth. Best of luck, Lee, in your ambitious pursuit.

For my summer, I went on a mission trip to Mexico, to Florida for a week, and, probably the highlight of my summer, National Ultimate Training Camp in Amherst, MA with frisbee pro Mitchell Shope.

I speak for everyone when I say this past summer has been a good one.

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MBA Football 2008: A Look At Each Game

by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
August 22	Antioch	7:00pm
August 31	at Moeller	12:00pm
September 5	at Baylor	7:00pm EST
September 12	at Hillsboro	7:00pm
September 19	PJP II	7:00pm
September 26	Ravenwood (HC)	7:30pm
October 3	at Ensworth	7:00pm
October 10	at Brentwood Ac.	7:30pm
October 17	Fall Break	
October 24	Father Ryan	7:00pm
October 31	McCallie	7:00pm

Antioch—(7-5) Class 5A-27th 21.1 *8th Toughest Opponent*

The Bears will be looking to get revenge this year, after suffering a 13-38 beat down at the hands of MBA. The Bears will be led by Terrance Davis, the co-offensive MVP in Region 5-5A last year. Davis is a dual threat QB who averaged more than 200 yards of total offense last year. The Big Red have literally been counting down the seconds to this anticipated match-up - a countdown clock was put up shortly after the State Championship last year.

Moeller—(8-3) Greater Catholic South-2nd *3rd Toughest Opponent*

The Fighting Crusaders compete in possibly the nation's toughest league, the GCL South. Moeller is returning nine starters from a team that took down some of the toughest teams in the country last year. One of the team's most talented players is DL Sean McClellan, who has already committed to Cincinnati. The Big Red will be participating in the Kirk Herbstreit Football Series, and the game will be featured on the NFL network. The big showdown is scheduled for noon on Sunday August 31st at Paul Brown Stadium (the Bengals' Stadium). Also, the Cincinnati Reds are in town that same weekend, playing just down the street from the Bengals' Stadium on Saturday night at Great American Ball Park. So make a weekend out of it and see the Reds at a beautiful ballpark and the Big Red in one of the most anticipated match-ups in recent history.

Baylor—(2-8) Division II AA-11th *9th Toughest Opponent*

The Red Raiders will be boasting a very tough O-Line, but the question is whether they will have enough difference-makers to challenge the Big Red. Baylor's two wins last year came against JP II and St. Anne's-Belfield, a team from Virginia. The game will be played in Chattanooga at Baylor's field.

Hillsboro—(10-2-1) Class 4A-2nd *5th Toughest Opponent*

The Big Red pulled out a squeaker against the Burros last year, so look for Hillsboro to bring a little extra to the table in this game. The MBA-Hillsboro game was the closest and most intense game of last year. Hillsboro's fans even chewed Big Red gum, in hopes it would help their team chew up the competition. This year, however, MBA will have to take on the Burros at their house. The biggest talent on this Hillsboro team without question is Eric Gordon, a cornerback who has received offers from Tennessee, Alabama, Miami, Florida, South Carolina, and Oklahoma, just to name a few. Gordon is a four-star player on rivals.com, and he is rated the 14th best cornerback in the nation. The new tailback for the Burros, taking over for Jacquese Seward, is Alex Crutcher. Crutcher has already received offers from Texas Tech, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt.

JP II—(1-9) Division II AA-12th *Cupcake*

The Knights will have to rely heavily on the running game of Wesley Tate if they want to put up a fight against the Big Red. Wesley, the brother of Notre Dame football/baseball player Golden Tate, has blazing speed and can't be stopped in the open field. He has picked up offers from Stanford, Navy, Air Force, Alabama, Ole Miss, and Vanderbilt. Plenty of underclassmen got playing time for the Knights last year, so that experience should be very valuable for the team moving forward this season.

Ravenwood—(4-6) Class 5A-22nd *7th Toughest Opponent*

The Raptors definitely gave MBA the biggest scare last year, coming back late in the fourth quarter on their Homecoming, only to lose in the end. This year, Ravenwood will be participating in MBA's Homecoming game, which does not help their chances. All of the hype and festivities surrounding Homecoming always result in a great effort from the Big Red. MBA hopes to give its alums a good show, but hopefully one that is not as nerve-racking as last year.

Ensworth—(9-3) Division II AA-4th *4th Toughest Opponent*

No one, and I mean no one, associated with the MBA community could stand the thought of a loss to Ensworth. Everyone knows how much this game means to the Tigers, and they will most definitely give MBA a run for their money this year. Led by a frightening 1-2 punch in the backfield of Tavarres Jefferson, who will get the majority of the snaps at quarterback, and Orleans Opoku-Darkwa, a junior running back who gained 1,398 yards on the ground last season. The Tigers will most definitely use these two in an option package, which will be extremely tough to stop. The Big Red defense will need to step up to the challenge to take down the Tigers at their house this year.

BA—(11-2) Division II AA-2nd *Toughest Opponent*

Brentwood Academy, a team the Big Red had the pleasure to beat twice last year, is returning sixteen starters from a team that reached the DII-AA title game last year. The Eagles are ranked the best team in Tennessee, regardless of Class or Division, and 26th nationally by maxpreps.com. Brentwood Academy's strong point this year will be its fierce line, most notably Alex Bullard. The rivals.com 4-star Bullard is ranked the 9th best guard in the nation; Alex has already committed to Notre Dame for the 2009 season. Also, D-linemen Barry Dabney and Ryan Carrethers are getting offers from some major college programs. The Eagles haven't forgotten the shutout the Big Red handed them in the State Championship last year, so they will be bringing their A game for sure.

Father Ryan—(9-3) Division II AA-3rd *6th Toughest Opponent*

Every year the Irish seem to think it will be the year, but it never is. Last year, the Irish were more cocky than ever, coming into the game against MBA with an undefeated record. However, MBA put the beatdown on them, winning by a score of 26-0. Then the playoffs rolled around, and the Big Red just rubbed it in, winning this time 42-7. Father Ryan's only other loss last year was at the hands of Brentwood Academy. Both MBA and Father Ryan boast extremely strong and proven kickers, with Andrew Fletcher booting field goals for MBA and Nick Pollard for Father Ryan. The two best kickers in the state might very well be on display at this much anticipated match-up. MBA knows the Irish will bring everything they've got, because if there is one team Father Ryan would like to beat this year, it is no doubt MBA.

McCallie—(5-5) Division II AA-8th *2nd Toughest Opponent*

Look out for the Blue Tornadoes this upcoming season, as they are my sleeper pick for the year. After a mediocre .500 season, I'm feeling a big turn-around for McCallie. A big playmaker for the Tornadoes will be safety Jay Fullam, who has already inked at Vanderbilt. The Tornadoes are also hinting that Fullam will be used in the Tornadoes offense this season. The McCallie squad will be returning eight starters on both sides of the ball this year, while MBA is returning only four starters on both units. This is one of the more intriguing teams for next season, which is why I have ranked McCallie as the 2nd Toughest Opponent, ahead of Moeller and Hillsboro. The Big Red will have their hands full for the last game of the grueling and exciting season.

SOURCES: maxpreps.com; tennessee.coacht.com; tennessean.com; rivals.com